

AN ACT

relating to the authority of counties to appoint, contract for, or employ physicians, dentists, or other health care providers for county jails.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 351, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 351.045 to read as follows:

Sec. 351.045. EMPLOYMENT OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS. (a) The commissioners court of a county may appoint, contract for, or employ licensed physicians, dentists, or other health care providers to provide health care services to inmates in the custody of the sheriff.

(b) This section may not be construed as authorizing a commissioners court to supervise or control the practice of medicine as prohibited by Subtitle B, Title 3, Occupations Code, or to supervise or control the practice of dentistry as prohibited by Subtitle D, Title 3, Occupations Code.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

H.B. No. 1566

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1566 was passed by the House on April 26, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 115, Nays 33, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1566 was passed by the Senate on May 17, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor